

Man killed in shooting is identified

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OAKLAND — A man killed Saturday after pointing a gun at police officers following a shooting and car chase has been identified as Stephen Cliff, 26, who had a lengthy criminal record and a history of drug use, investigators said.

Hours before Cliff was killed, he told family members he wanted to kill himself and had told others he would shoot it out with police if confronted, Sgt. Greg Bingham said Sunday.

Based on statements from the three officers who shot Cliff and supporting statements from residents who witnessed the shooting, "The officers had no choice but to fire" at Cliff, Bingham said.

"They were left with no alternative. He was given every opportunity to surrender, but refused to do so."

Saturday's violence began about

11:24 a.m. when Cliff shot Andrew Navarro, 30, an acquaintance, in the chest with a .22 semi-automatic pistol in the 2200 block of 38th Avenue, police said. The shooting occurred after a conversation between the men. Police are unsure of the motive. Navarro was in stable condition Sunday.

Cliff drove off in a Ford van he had stolen the night before from another acquaintance, police said. Cliff threatened to kill the van owner and told her he would shoot it out with police rather than be arrested, Bingham said.

About 10 minutes later, police spotted Cliff in the van near Havenscourt Boulevard and East 14th Street and began following it.

When the officers turned on lights and sirens, Cliff accelerated, and a chase ensued, ending at 40th Avenue and East 12th Street, where Cliff lost control of the van and crashed into a stop sign, coming to

rest on the curb.

Cliff got out and refused repeated orders to surrender and drop his gun, police said.

"We think he was trying to shoot the officers, but the gun jammed," Bingham said, noting that a bullet found in the chamber of Cliff's gun had a strike mark on it. There were also three bullets in the gun's clip.

When Cliff continued to point the gun, Officers Michael Morse, James Keller and David Price began shooting at him with their semi-automatic pistols.

Cliff fell with the gun still in his hand and refused repeated orders to surrender and drop the gun, police said. When Cliff started getting up and pointed his gun at officers a second time, they again opened fire and Cliff fell to the ground with several mortal wounds, Bingham said.

Anyone with information about the shooting is asked to call police at 238-3821.